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NEWS RELEASE

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Michigan Businesses Identify Major Issues in First Businesses Competitiveness Meeting

*Businesses tell Committee of Need to Eliminate SBT, Foster R&D Tax Credits; Second
Meeting to be Conducted in Grand Rapids March 31*

(LANSING) – Reforming tax policy with regard to businesses, expanding research and development opportunities in Michigan and restructuring environmental fee processes were among the many issues of concern identified by Michigan businesses at the first Joint Select Committee on Business Competitiveness hearing conducted March 10 at the Novi Expo Center.

The committee, co-chaired by Senator Alan Sanborn, was established earlier this year with the responsibility of making recommendations to the Legislature on how to maintain current and attract new business investment and increase the number of good-paying jobs for Michigan workers.

“I was extremely pleased not only with the turn-out at the committee meeting, but also with the areas of interest that each business and association presented to the committee,” Sanborn said. “Obviously the majority of businesses in Michigan would love to see the continued phase-out of the Single Business Tax, and I am sure this will be prevalent at each subsequent hearing that will be held in the coming months.”

Approximately 75 local and statewide business associations and individuals attended the meeting

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with a number of them testifying, including: Oakland County Executive L. Brooks Patterson, Eastern Michigan University, Slasor Heating and Cooling Inc. and Northwest Heating and Cooling Dealers Association, Oakland County Planning and Economic Development Department, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, Detroit Chamber of Commerce, Small Business Association of Michigan, National Federal of Independent Businesses, Michigan Manufacturers Association, Michigan Bankers Association, the Michigan International Speedway and the Michigan Association of Home Builders.

Many other issues were raised at the committee meeting including: health insurance rates, efficiency in permitting, and keeping a low tax burden on individuals and businesses.

The next meeting will be held on March 31 in Grand Rapids, with a specific location and time to be announced at a later date. Additional meetings are also scheduled on April 15 in Traverse City, April 16 in Menominee, April 28 in Macomb County, May 5 in Battle Creek, May 19 in the Bay City/Saginaw area and June 9 in Monroe.

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**Editor's Note: A downloadable photograph of the Joint Committee on Business Competitiveness is available on the Senate Majority Photowire at:
<http://www.senate.state.mi.us/gop/photowire/Index.htm>**